

Claremont Village Industrial District  
Claremont  
Sullivan  
New Hampshire

HAER NO. NH-1

HAER  
NH,  
10-CLAR,  
5-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington D.C. 20240

Addendum to:  
Claremont Village Industrial District  
Vicinity of Sugar River between  
Broad Street and Main Street Bridges  
Claremont, New Hampshire  
Sullivan County

HAER No. NH-1

HAER  
NH  
10-22-91  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
CLAREMONT VILLAGE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT  
HAER NH-1

HAER  
NH  
10-CLAR,  
5-

Date: 1836-1919

Location: Both sides of the Sugar River between the Broad Street and Main Street Bridges.

Designed by: Various

Owners: Various

Significance: Claremont is located in the western portion of New Hampshire, approximately 50 miles north of the Massachusetts line. The town is bounded on the west by the Connecticut River, New Hampshire's boundary with Vermont. Claremont lies some five miles east of the Connecticut on a small tributary, the Sugar River.

The Claremont region is characterized by rugged terrain, and some of the highest and most scenic mountain ranges on the eastern seaboard. But because of its industrial background, the inherent qualities of Claremont's setting and historic mill structures have been generally overlooked. However, its decidedly urban character, on a small scale, set in a rural context, makes it a unique town.

The Claremont Village Industrial District, situated on both sides of the Sugar River, is approximately one mile in length, varies in width from one eighth to one half mile, and forms the core of the town's urban area.

The district began in 1836, with the construction of the first two buildings of what became known as the Monadnock Company. Sensing that industrial development was moving away from the center of town and down the Sugar River toward the Connecticut, a group of local investors banded together and built a mill building and boarding house on speculation. They were able to attract a Boston firm to purchase and use the buildings. The firm, the Monadnock Company, prospered and expanded, and attracted other enterprises to the area (see HAER Nos. NH-2 to 5) between 1836 and 1919. Almost all of the buildings constructed in that period remain intact, and provide a rare surviving example of a substantially complete New England manufacturing area.

The Monadnock complex is one of two important groups of buildings in the District. The other is the Sullivan Machinery Company (HAER No. NH-4) complex, which began in 1868 around the diamond core drilling inventions of Albert Ball, and the busy machine works of J.P. Upham. In 1888, Ball and Upham built a two-story brick building to house their works. This building was altered and expanded ten times between 1899 and 1910. The company also erected machine and erecting shops, warehouses, a forge and a massive foundry on the north side of the river. In 1946, Sullivan merged with other firms to become Joy Manufacturing Company. The Joy Company is the largest employer in Claremont, but it has vacated nearly all of its original buildings in the District. During a hectic period of development just after the turn of the century, tenements and warehousing were constructed at the western edge of the District. Here, industrial buildings merge with the housing of "The Lower Village," a residential area which has traditionally been home for immigrants working in the industrial district. There was little concern for the close proximity of such differing uses, except to provide housing for the workers pouring into town and storage space for the goods produced. The warehousing has been vacated by its original owners, and the housing has been rented to transient populations.

In 1855, construction of the present Sugar Grist and Saw Mills was begun at the junction of the Sugar River and The Main Street bridge. There have been mills on this site since 1785, historically the western gateway to the town. The area of this intersection continues to be a significant public space in the lower village. The integrity of its historic character is substantially intact with most original 19th century structures extant.

Researchers are referred to a 1978 HCRS study (U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. Rehabilitation: Claremont 1978; Planning for Adaptive Use and Energy Conservation in an Historic Mill Village. Washington, D.C., 1978.) for rehabilitation proposals.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984.

Second Addendum:  
Claremont Village Industrial District  
Vicinity of Sugar River between  
Broad Street and Main Street Bridges  
Claremont, New Hampshire  
Sullivan County

HAER No. NH-1

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM TO  
CLAREMONT VILLAGE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT  
Vicinity of Sugar River between  
Broad Street and Main Street Bridges  
Claremont  
Sullivan County  
New Hampshire

HAER NH 10-CLAR

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NH  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127